

# Maine Medicaid MU/PI Program

## Clarification of the Secure Electronic Messaging Measure

The Secure Electronic Message has been incorporated into the Coordination of Care Through Patient Engagement objective for Stage 3.

Click [here](#) for the specification sheet with details for Objective 6.

### **Objective 6 - Coordination of Care through Patient Engagement**

**Objective:** Use certified electronic health record technology (CEHRT) to engage with patients or their authorized representatives about the patient's care

**Measure Requirements:** 1. A provider must attest to all three measures and meet the threshold for two measures for this objective.

2. If the provider meets the criteria for exclusion from two measures, they must meet the threshold for the one remaining measure.

3. If they meet the criteria for exclusion from all three measures, they may be excluded from meeting this objective.

- **Measure 1:** More than 5 percent of all unique patients seen by the professional actively engage with the EHR made accessible by the EP and either:
  - (1) View, download, or transmit to a third party their health information; or
  - (2) Access their health information through an Application Programming Interface (API) that can be used by applications chosen by the patient and configured to the API in the professional's CEHRT; or
  - (3) A combination of (1) and (2)
- **Note from Maine Program –** This measure relies on action completed by the patient. The patient must go into the patient portal and look at the information available.
- **Measure 2:** For more than 5 percent of all unique patients seen by the professional during the EHR reporting period, a secure message was sent using the electronic messaging function of CEHRT to the patient, or in response to a secure message sent by the patient or their authorized representative
- **Note from Maine Program -** The action in this measure is when the **provider** sends a secure electronic message to a patient or when a provider responds to a secure message sent by a patient.
- **Measure 3:** Patient generated health data or data from a nonclinical setting is incorporated into the CEHRT for more than 5 percent of all unique patients seen by the EP during the EHR reporting period.
  - Patient Generated Health Data: Data generated by a patient.

- Data from a Non-Clinical Setting: This includes, but is not limited to, social service data, data generated by a patient, advance directives, medical device data, home health monitoring data, and fitness monitor data.
- Note from Maine Program – This measure counts when data a patient has been monitoring at home or any location outside of the professional’s office environment is given to the professional and incorporated into the CEHRT. Example: A patient monitors their blood pressure, blood sugars or other items the patient is noting changes from one time to another. This data may be tracked on an hourly, daily or weekly timeframe depending on what the professional has requested the patient track and how often. The CEHRT should be counting when this data is incorporated into the CEHRT.

**Tips:**

- If a provider finds they are not meeting the objective they should review how they are communicating with their patients and use the secure electronic messaging when appropriate.
- The numerator action for measure 2 (provider send or responds to a secure electronic message with a patient) can be completed anytime within CY 2020 and is not restricted to the 90-day MU reporting period as long as the patient that is sent a message is a part of the unique number of patients included in the denominator from the selected 90-day MU reporting period.
- **Example:**
  - Dr. A selects June, July and August for his objective reporting period
  - Dr. A sees 100 unique patients during this 90-day period - 100 is the denominator.
  - The minimum number of patients Dr. A must send a secure electronic message to is 6 patients because the threshold must be **more than 5%**.
  - If Dr. A sends an electronic message, at any time during CY 2020 to **at least 6** of the patients that are part of the 100 patients counted in the denominator, those messages will count in the numerator.